



March 10, 2025

Dear Parents of the Class of 2025:

Commencement exercises for La Jolla High School's Class of 2025 will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, in Gene Edwards Stadium, with gates opening at 2:00 p.m. Our graduation ceremony has been organized as a traditional celebration for seniors, parents, and the extended La Jolla educational family. We sincerely hope it will be a day to be remembered.

San Diego Unified School District will be providing caps and gowns for all graduating seniors. They will be distributed at the senior meeting on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Associated Student Body will distribute the caps and gowns to all students except those who may possibly fail to meet the Board mandated 2.0 academic and citizenship GPA graduation requirements. These students will receive their caps and gowns if and when counselors have cleared their status. Please note that all financial obligations must be paid before caps and gowns will be issued. This year, unless purchased, students will return their caps and gowns following commencement. Each participating student will receive six admission tickets (with additional tickets available starting Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>). Tickets may be purchased after school for \$5 each from the financial secretary or at the stadium gates on the day of the commencement.

On graduation day, we will begin with a brief ceremony to recognize teachers and community members who have made significant contributions to La Jolla High School. The graduation program will follow with each student receiving a diploma cover; actual diplomas will be given to students after the ceremony in the 500 building hallway. Students who have earned academic distinction will be recognized in the graduation program, and have the right to wear a gold cord. Qualified students (list to be posted in the registrar's office) will receive their gold cord during senior checkout.

Please note: Board policy mandates that seniors complete all forty-four required credits by the day of graduation and achieve a 2.0 citizenship average for their senior year in order to participate in commencement ceremonies.

I'm sure you'll agree that it is an honor for our students to participate in a ceremony as graduates of a Nationally Ranked, California Distinguished School, and all seniors must realize the responsibilities that attend this privilege. Please remind your student that any indication of the use of alcohol or any controlled substances before or during the ceremony will result in immediate removal from the site and delay in issuing the diploma.



In keeping with the dignity of the day, we have dress and behavior codes for commencement exercises. All students will wear caps and gowns. All students must wear: dresses, skirts and blouses, dress slacks, blouses (no jumpsuits, jeans, or the like), dress shirts with ties, and dress shoes (no athletic shoes, sandals, or the like). Given the soft nature of synthetic field turf, we discourage spiked heels. Out of respect for the tradition of the day, your graduate will not be allowed to participate in commencement exercises if these dress requirements are not met.

Please remind your graduate that this ceremony will be conducted as a formal, dignified event honoring all students and their families. Students may not carry personal items such as purses, cameras, flowers, or leis. Cartwheels, somersaults, beach balls, bubbles, confetti, insignias, or any other distractions will not be allowed. Please openly discuss and discourage any behavior that will draw attention to a specific student and detract from the purpose of the event. Students who act inappropriately will have diplomas withheld pending a meeting with the administration at the start of the next school year.

Of important note: we want all families to see their students receive their diplomas and hear their names announced. So please do not block others' view by moving about or using shade umbrellas, and by all means do not use any noisemakers, most particularly air-horns, which drown out the name of the next student in line.

Each graduate will be individually photographed as their diploma is awarded; information regarding purchase of those photos will come to you in the mail. No spectators will be allowed on the field or in front of the stands to take photographs during the ceremony.

Parking is limited, so please allow ample time. Entry gates will be open on Rushville St., Fay Ave., and Viking Plaza. Please note that seats cannot be reserved. We have, however, made provisions for those who require handicapped access, which includes a special seating area. Due to limited space, only one family member may join the guest who requires this special service. Please contact Margaret Fegan by Monday, May 19th (858-634-8000, ext. 3020) to make arrangements. Staff will be present to assist those with special needs. Handicapped parking and drop-off is located on Fay Ave. immediately adjacent to the east entrance.

For the comfort of our guests, the Junior Class will be selling water at graduation. Also, the sun can be an issue, so we recommend sunscreen and hats. Shade umbrellas are discouraged, as they block the view of others.

If you have any questions about senior activities, please contact the school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Podhorsky  
Principal